



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE

September 30, 1998

S. 2285

Women's Progress Commemoration Act

*As reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
on September 25, 1998*

Assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO estimates that implementing S. 2285 would cost the federal government between \$3 million and \$6 million, mostly over the next two years. The bill could affect direct spending and receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would apply. CBO estimates, however, that any new receipts (from donations) would be offset by direct spending of such amounts soon after collection. S. 2285 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would have no significant impact on the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

S. 2285 would establish the Women's Progress Commemoration Commission. The bill would require that, within one year after its first meeting, the commission submit to the Department of the Interior (DOI) a report that identifies sites of historical significance to the women's movement. In addition, the report would include recommendations to rehabilitate and preserve these sites and provide interpretive and educational materials and activities thereon. Within two years after the commission submits its report (and again three years later), DOI would submit to Congress progress reports on actions taken to preserve the sites identified by the commission.

The 15 members of the commission would be appointed by the President and the Congress. Commission members who are federal employees would serve without additional compensation, while those who are not would be paid at a specified rate for each day that they are engaged in commission business. Commission members would also receive travel expenses. The commission would terminate one month after it submits its report to the department. S. 2285 would authorize the appropriation of whatever amounts are necessary for the commission's activities. In addition, the commission may accept and spend donations to help offset operating costs.

Based on the funding experience of other, similar commissions and assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO estimates that the federal government would spend between \$3 million and \$6 million to compensate commission members and personnel and to fund activities such as holding hearings and preparing reports. Most of these funds would be spent during fiscal years 1999 and 2000, while a small portion would be used by DOI to prepare and submit reports to the Congress in later years. It is possible that donations could offset some of the commission's expenses, reducing the need for federal appropriations.

The CBO staff contact is Deborah Reis. This estimate was approved by Paul N. Van de Water, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.